

2/6/70

Dear Nich,

Your review of the Curry book is perceptive. It does have positive values, does represent a step forward, for Texas.

But there are several things in your 2:4 that disturb me. I recognize you have to maintain a sort of neutral position, but man, can you know anything about Joesten's recent work and still plug that monstrosity he sells? You know, he doesn't even have the 26. He makes it up as he goes, and some of it is pretty awful. It is no service to plug such crap and it is no kindness to direct serious people often not in a position to evaluate to what cannot be trusted. We have had so much too much of this!

Roger Craig may be a brave guy and all of that, but he is also full of what is generally reserved for toilets. I have gone over his annotation of his testimony, as printed, and his account of the changes is utterly impossible. I spent too many years working with court reporters, particularly the firm the Commission used, to find it possible to credit this in any way. More, I have traced that testimony all the way from Dallas to the Government Printing Office, and it is printed as it was taken down. I have copies of the typescript sent to the GPO, and I have the letter of transmittal to DC, the bills for taking it, the whole story. Roger was, despite Penn's great love for him, at best simply wrong, in the newer press, what he embellished his original testimony with. Now I have met Roger, and he is a fine-looking, clean-cut kind of guy who appears to be truthful, serious and all that—just like dozens of guys I once guarded in an Army locked ward in a large mental institution. He does not impress me as the kind of guy who is out to make trouble. But he has. It was all I could do to talk Bradley out of suing you and Penn. Bradley tells me—and I believe it—that contrary to Roger's account to Penn, Roger called him reverse, asking money of him...And to Penn almost everyone in the world is now an agent, including me. He owes me money he acknowledges owing, can pay, and just refuses to, without even answering letters. This is not the kind of man Penn was. It is the kind he is now. If you want copies of the letters I wrote, and one incredible reply, if you promise not to let anyone see them, I'll send them. So far as I am concerned, he also is sick, and I can produce you a number of solid people, including at least one expert, who will tell you this. So, I again waste time I do not have, trying to make you people understand that we also have to be responsible, we have to apply to ourselves the standards we criticize the government for not having, and this means not regurgitating everything that is congenial to opposing the official fiction. We have lost so much credibility—and particularly those of us who have been responsible have paid and paid heavily for those who impose no such strictures on themselves. There must at some point be both a recognition of this on the part of those who do disseminate what they present as information and the imposition of such standards upon themselves. Otherwise, they hurt, they do not help. Where people are ill it is one thing. Where they are not the situation is different. On Roger again, take another look at the picture and ask yourself if it is Roger, and I do not think it is, what he is doing out of uniform? There is a certain resemblance to Roger by the man on the right outside the door. I think it is not Roger. But if it is, does this not tend to corroborate Fritz? Of course, I will not see what Penn prints. Owing me about \$150.00, he cut me off his subscription list for not paying for the subscription. At least, this is what he told others. He told me nothing. He first cut me off then started slandering me, too. But I do have the picture (Curry, 72). The man inside the office is too short for Roger. The one outside is DPD.

I see nothing wrong with your attempt to help Roger financially. Any man in need deserves help. But if you have the capability of raising money for Roger, let me bluntly ask you why, when all of you have incomes, of whatever magnitude, and I have been without any income for six years, you have done nothing to raise what it takes to keep your word to me, to repay me only the costs I incurred for you? Your committee did give me its word, I did take your word, I did spend money I did not and do not have and still have trouble just meeting the interest on, for you, not for any selfish purpose of my own. But in all the many hours of time your not keeping your word has wasted for me, I got but a single response, and that so long ago. Roger is not alone in medical needs. I also have them, and right now-and I have not a cent for them.

For all these years - have engaged in this rather large undertaking, the only one of us with no source of income, and I think it is no exaggeration to say I have first brought to light most of what has been (not counting the manure that is so readily reproduced), and in not a single way has a single "committee" undertaken to help with this. Roger and Penn dish out a pile of shit and they become heroes. Bleed for them. And raise money for them.

My needs have been urgent. They are now more urgent. My indebtedness is enormous. Meeting it without any outside help and with no income is not only extremely difficult, but it also costs as much as it costs me to live. I therefore now ask all of you to get together, raise the money you owe me, and as you can replace it from any income you may have, do that. I do not feel I should have to wait, have to pay interest I do not have because of you. And I am less disposed to consider it when I see how you are spending the funds you do have on the "news" letter.

If you do not do this, there is nothing I can do about it or would if I could. But I think if you people have the principle you pretend and I think do, all of our have, it should extend ~~xxxxxxx~~ to meeting the financial obligations you incur. With me, they are a year and a half overdue. I hope you will delay this no longer. Too many like you have abused me this way. Near you is another, the LA Free Press, which has yet to acknowledge my existence, yet to pay me for 25 books they got two years ago, yet to acknowledge a single letter or bill. Boy, do they help printing crap and paying nothing.

Sad commentary.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg